



The Spire

The Newsletter of the Mequon United Methodist Church
January 2024

Connecting people to Jesus Christ and to one another.

Sermon Spotlight

Jan 7: Mark 1:4-11

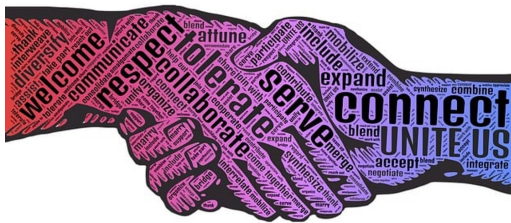
*"You are my Son, whom I love;
with you I am well pleased."*

Jan 14: Matthew 2:1-12

Wise men from eastern lands

Jan 21: Matthew Fuller

Jan 28: Glen Van Fossen



Connecting people to Jesus Christ and to one another.

Music Spotlight

Jan 7: Skylar Chrobak

Jan 14: A Surprise!

Jan 21: Praise Ensemble

Jan 28: Chancel Choir



Calendar Highlights

Jan 1 - Happy 2024!

Jan 3 - Women's Prayer B'fast 7:30 am

Jan 3 - Confirmation Class 5:45 pm

Jan 4 - Men's Prayer B'fast 7 am

Jan 5 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Jan 6 - [Epiphany](#)

Jan 7 - Unhanging of the Greens

Jan 7 - Choir Rehearsal 11 am

Jan 8 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Jan 9 - Lunch Bunch 11 am

Jan 10 - Confirmation Class 5:45 pm

Jan 10 - Reflections 6 pm

Jan 12 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Jan 14 - Choir Rehearsal 11 am

Jan 14 - Blood Pressure Checks

Jan 15 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Jan 16 - Lunch Bunch 11 am

Jan 16 - FS Food Pantry 2-4 pm

Jan 17 - Confirmation Class 5:45 pm

Jan 19 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Jan 21 - Choir Rehearsal 11 am

Jan 22 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Jan 23 - Lunch Bunch 11 am

Jan 23 - Fiber Arts 6 pm

Jan 24 - Confirmation Class 5:45 pm

Jan 25 - Spire Deadline midnight

Jan 26 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Jan 27 - Outreach Dinner 5 pm

Jan 28 - Choir Rehearsal 8:30 am

Jan 28 - Kids' Picnic 11 am

Jan 29 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Jan 30 - Lunch Bunch 11 am

Jan 31 - Confirmation Class 5:45 pm

Feb 1 - Men's Prayer B'fast 7 am

Feb 2 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Feb 5-9 - FPromise Dinners

Feb 7 - Women's Prayer B'fast 7:30 am

[View MUMC Online Calendar](#)

MUMC Outreach

To be the bridge to community connection and collaboration ...

What? The Mequon United Methodist Church Mission Outreach Committee Leadership Dinner and Fundraiser
When? January 27 at 5:00 pm
Where? Remington's River Inn in Thiensville
Why? To be the bridge to community connection and collaboration through MUMC's outreach activities
What will we do? Dinner, awards, celebration, auctions, fellowship and fun! [Click here for more info.](#)



January 27, 2024 5 pm
Mission Outreach Leadership Dinner

Your invitation was mailed last month -
return you RSVP by mail or in the Narthex after worship!!



Community Garden Outreach

Jim Layton, our Community Gardner extraordinaire, shared that the MUMC Community Garden produced more than 2,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables this year for our church family as well as the families that utilize the Saukville Food Pantry!

The garden now boasts a pergola entrance, thanks to the Bill Jackson Legacy Fund. The pergola will be used during our Sunday Free Produce Market next year in addition to being a peaceful location to enjoy nature.

Much thanks to Jim and his team - [click here for more details and here for the December garden report!](#)

Helping People Out of the Cold

Family Promise of Ozaukee County

Did you know ...

- Family Promise of Ozaukee County has provided **over 900 nights of shelter in the last four months.**
- Family Promise also **kept 55 families in their homes** during that time period.
- Mequon United Methodist Church continues to be faithful servants in our Family Promise ministry, helping our Ozaukee County neighbors at risk of homelessness.

At Christmas time, it's easy to generate interest in giving to make sure no child goes without a gift to celebrate the birth of our Lord; but it is sustained commitment that truly represents God's love on earth. For MUMC's sustained commitment of support to the ministry of Family Promise, I am deeply grateful. Thank you all.

Connie Pukaite, Chair
Family Promise Board – 2023

P.S. The next opportunity to help make dinners for the Family Promise Shelter is February 5-9. Contact Pam Layton to help!

[Click here to read more, including an inspiring Family Promise Story.](#)

Family Sharing Food Pantry

Third Tuesdays, 2 - 4 pm

MUMC's Mission Outreach Committee has a new volunteer opportunity with Family Sharing of Ozaukee County! The Family Sharing Food Pantry provides food to residents in need, free of charge, with dignity and compassion. In addition to our Thanksgiving food drive, MUMC members and friends are encouraged to volunteer on the third Tuesday of the month at the Family Sharing Food Pantry to sort incoming food items.

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex!

\$1,705 Thank Yous!

MUMC donated \$1,705.00 for the Christmas Giving Tree mission for Pathfinders of Milwaukee!

[Click here for more details!](#)

Pathfinders' mission includes four core initiatives for youth: Housing & Shelter, Education, Family Engagement, and Youth Empowerment.

THANK YOU for making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Oh Holy Night!

Thank you to all who made our Live Nativity and night in Bethlehem a huge success. Over 60 people joined from the community. Children and adults, dressed the part and shared the message of Jesus' birth outside. Then everyone joined shop owners in our Bethlehem re-creation. Children made birdhouses, clay pots, scrolls, metal work, and bread. Everyone enjoyed a light dinner.

Connecting with Jesus Christ and One Another

Come ~ Connect ~ Grow Community

January Reflections

January 10 ~
6:00 pm

The Reflections book group starts the new year on **Wednesday, January 10.**

Suchi Kantamneni will be hosting at her home (7940 Cheverny Dr, Mequon). Our discussion book will be *Small Things Like These*, by Claire Keegan. Here's a summary:



Taking Down the Greens!

Sunday, January 7

Let's get together to de-decorate the church! Join us on **Sunday, January 7 following coffee hour** to take down the Christmas tree, wreaths and garlands. Many hands make light work - see you there!



Fiber Arts Ministry!

4th Tuesday - January 23, 6:00 pm

It is 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man faces his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church. An international bestseller, *Small Things Like These* is a deeply affecting story of hope, quiet heroism, and empathy from one of our most critically lauded and iconic writers.

Reflections is a women's book group who meet monthly for fellowship and discussion. Contact Barb Henneck at bhenneck@gmail.com for more info or to RSVP for the January meeting. New women are always welcome!!

Join us as we work together to inspire creativity and provide warm clothes to people in need. New members are always welcome - and there are S-N-A-C-K-S! Contact Jenna Burns with kit ideas or questions!

Blood Pressure Checks

January 14

MUMC's parish nurses will continue their second-Sunday blood pressure checks in 2024! They will be in the parlor before and after worship!

Children's Sabbath

February 25

Save the date! The children will share their love of Jesus with all during the church service.

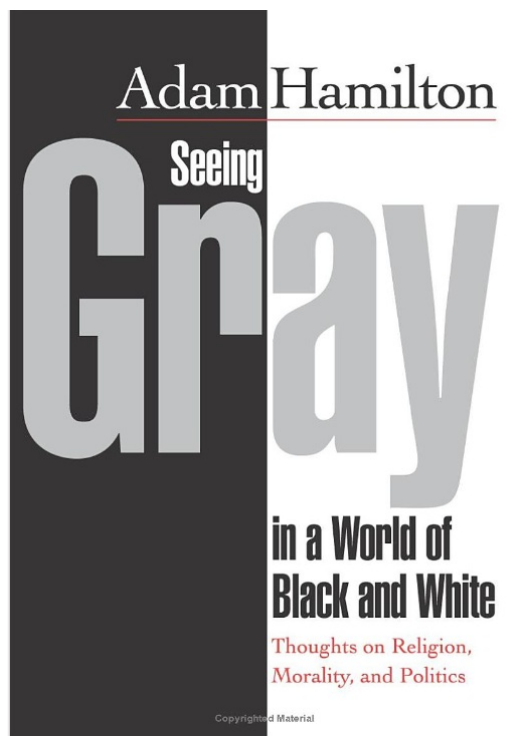
Lunch Bunch Bible Study

We have a great new bible study beginning on **Tuesday, January 9th at 11:00 am** with lunch and fellowship for about an hour afterward. This is a 5-week study.

This study is based on the book 'Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White' by Adam Hamilton, dealing with thoughts on religion, morality, and politics. You may purchase the book on Ebay or Amazon.

Click here to read more about the Bible Study content.

Lunch Bunch meets weekly on Tuesdays at 11:00 and welcomes new members at any time! We meet for an hour for Bible Study and spiritual growth, and then enjoy lunch and fellowship downstairs. Call Jean Paulus at 262-502-0512 for more info.



Kids' Picnic On The Move!

*Last Sunday of the month - January 28
11 am - 1 pm*

The Kids' Picnic, monthly fun, games, birthday celebrations and fellowship for all children, is moving to the last Sunday of the month! Children should pack a lunch and come prepared for adventure! We provide beverages and desserts, as well as a refrigerator to keep your lunch cold if necessary. All children are welcome - invite your friends!

Contact [Gayle Meyer](#) with questions or for more info.

The most frequent question I receive from my fellow Christians who are serious about their faith is “What is God’s will for *my life*?” When they ask me that question or when I am not clear about what God wants me to do, I remind them and myself of God’s general will for all His people, for God would reveal His specific will for us as we practice His general will for us.

One of God’s general wills is stated in 1Thessalonians 5:16-18: *“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* I suspect that rejoicing always is the hardest one to practice among those three. Here, Paul was not talking about being a Pollyanna Christian with a plastic smile on your face, pretending everything is okay, denying reality, and acting as if nothing is wrong. Friend, how could we be joyful in the midst of difficulties, hardships or injustice then? Paul’s joy was only possible because he put his confidence in God not anyone, anything or circumstances.

Our life in this side of eternity is like sailing in the sea. During the journey, oftentimes we steer against the wind or storm of fear, disappointment or whatever it may be. But while we sail through the storm, our joyful attitude has nothing to do with how winds blow or what kind of the wind blows against us because for Christians, joy is a daily decision to enjoy the gift of salvation given by Jesus Christ, which is being adopted as a child of God through Jesus Christ. So let’s decide to enjoy who we are in Christ in 2024 and beyond!

In Christ,
Sue

Wisconsin Conference Devotions



The birth of Jesus
We are reborn deep
within our hearts and spirits.
Come to us with light
Come to us with life
Come to this shabby place with peace
Come to the eternal now, right within us...

The coming of Jesus
Let there be hope for the world,
Let even a small smile express
happiness.
To a lonely person, come as a friend,
Come to Bethlehem
Yes come....
Come to the heart of the broken world.

The coming of the Savior
It brings joy to us,
so everyone rejoices together.
The Savior has come,
let us sing and let the world sing
Christ light,
Dawning within us the divine presence.

May we bless one another today
It's not a slow heart.
With a bright face, bless each other
Let me bless my friends
who have gone down different paths,
With a loving heart, we wish them to
bless.
May we all be blessed because of Jesus

To read all the devotions, [click here!](#)
To subscribe to weekly devotions [click here.](#)



Connecting people to Jesus Christ and to one another.

Our Vision:

To be THE bridge to community connection, collaboration, and common ground through Jesus Christ

How can YOU help MUMC achieve our vision?

Like, follow and repost MUMC Social Media -



Forward this newsletter to:

- a friend or neighbor looking for community and connection
- a family whose children would love our awesome Children's Ministries
- a community member looking for service opportunities
- anyone who loves Jesus!

You do not have to be a MUMC member to subscribe to the Spire. Click the link below to subscribe!

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Deadline for SPIRE copy: the 25th of the month. Send articles to news@mequonumc.org to be included in the monthly SPIRE or the weekly Sunday bulletins.

The editors reserve the right to edit content. Hence, the "editor" title.

SPIRE Editors: [Shelley and Jenna Burns](#)

Pastor: [Sue Lee](#)

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Finance Manager: [Kathy Windis](#)

Minister of Music: [Allison Tinsley-Fuller](#)

Organist/Pianist: John Peshut

Director of Children's Ministry: [Gayle Meyer](#)

Webmaster: [Marcia Schwager](#)

MUMC Office 262-242-4770

MUMC Office Email: office@mequonumc.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm / Closed Fridays

Sunday Schedule:

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

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